



EXCURSION
PLANNED FOR THE
CITY HISTORY CLUB
OF
NEW YORK
BY

FRANK BERGEN KELLEY, A. M., Ph. D.

No. V—THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY:
14th STREET TO 110th STREET.



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The City History Club of New York was founded in 1896, partly to awaken interest in the traditions of the City. To that end a series of historical excursions was planned which, from time to time, it has been found necessary to revise in order (1) to correct blunders due to misinformation, of which even standard books on New York history are full; (2) to keep pace with the march of improvements whereby the topography of the City is constantly changing; and (3) to add material as new light is shed on the past and as new tablets and monuments are erected to mark historic sites.

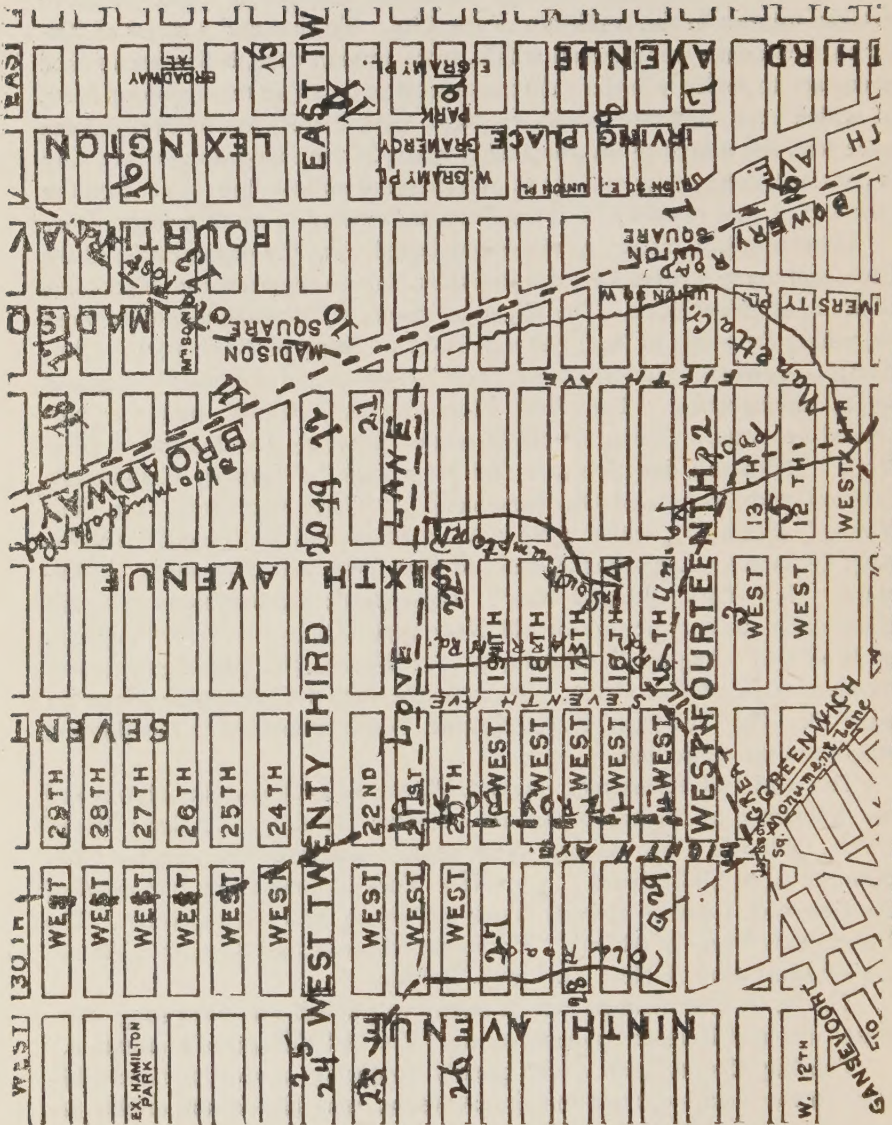
Interest in City history has been awakened since the organization of the Club, and many writers have devoted their time to research and description of life in old New York. The following books will be most helpful to those beginning the study of local history: Todd's "Story of New York" (Putnam); Goodwin's "Historic New York" (two bound volumes composed of 24 monographs, "The Half Moon Series,") which may be purchased separately (Putnam); Hemstreet's "Literary Landmarks of New York" (Putnam); Janvier's "In Old New York" (Harper); Hemstreet's "Nooks and Corners of Old New York"; "When Old New York Was Young" (Scribner); Innes' "New Amsterdam and Its People" (Scribner); Ulmann's "Landmark History of New York" (Appleton); R. R. Wilson's "New York Old and New" (Lippincott); reproductions of noted historical maps and pictures of old New York (Dunreath Publishing Co., 46 Wall St.). August R. Ohman, 97-101 Warren St., publishes the best modern maps of New York. See also the list of Club publications on page 18. The Club Plan of the English Period would aid in locating old roads and the shore line.

The works of Hemstreet, Janvier, Wilson and Ulmann (as above) and the following additional books are of value for this excursion: Mines' "Felix Oldboy's Tour Around New York," especially the chapter "My Summer Acre"; Greator's "Old New York"; Valentine's "Manual of the Common Council of New York"; Tolman and Hemstreet's "The Better New York"; Alden's "Manhattan Historic and Artistic"; Appleton's "Dictionary of New York and Vicinity."

The N. Y. Historical Society is about to publish an interesting illustrated series of lectures by members on "The Old Villages of Manhattan."

The City History Club would greatly appreciate corrections and additions to the points covered in this excursion, especially if authorities are quoted. As a rule only *existing landmarks* are mentioned.

Object.—"The City History Club has for its object the study of the history of the City of New York, in the hope of awakening an interest in its traditions and in the possibilities of its future, such educational work being for the improvement, uplifting and civic betterment of the community."



(Adapted from 1,000 foot scale map of Manhattan, by courtesy of August R. Ohman, Map Publisher and Engineer, 97 Warren St., N. Y. City)

MAP No. I: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY.

To Illustrate Excursion No. V, Sections I, II and III.

SECTION I: UNION SQUARE AND VICINITY.

(The numbers in Sections I, II, and III refer to the map, p. 4.)

1. **Union Square**: designated as "Union Place" by the Commissioners of the City Plan, who in 1807-11 laid out the city on the "checker-board system." The square ($3\frac{1}{2}$ acres) was formally laid out in 1832 through the agency of Samuel B. Ruggles.

The **fountain** dates from 1842, when the Croton water was introduced into the city.

The bronze equestrian **statue** of Washington, copied from Houdon, was erected by city merchants at the spot where Washington was received by the citizens on Evacuation Day, November 25, 1783, and was dedicated July 4, 1856. This is the oldest public statue in the city which stands in its original place, and was the work of Henry K. Brown.

Near the statue there was held in 1861 a great war meeting in response to Lincoln's call for troops. Facing it is the **statue** of Lafayette, modelled by Bartholdi and presented in 1876 to the city by French residents as a token of gratitude for American sympathy in the Franco-Prussian War.

At the southwest corner see the bronze **statue** of Lincoln, by H. K. Brown, and erected by popular subscription under the auspices of the Union League Club about 1866.

(West of Union Square.)

2. **Van Buren House**, 21 West 14th street (built about 1855), one of the last private residences on this block and the second homestead of the Spingler estate, which occupied the region around Union Square.

3. **Cruger Mansion**, 126-130 West 14th street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, once the home of The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

4. **Paisley Place** or Weavers' Row, a double row of rear wooden houses entered by alleys at 112-120 West 16th street and 112-120 West 17th street. They were built about 1822 to accommodate Scotch Weavers from Paisley who fled to this part of the city to escape yellow fever.

5. **60 West Thirteenth Street**—(occupied 1897-1905 by the Dewitt Clinton High School)—famous as the "old 13th Street School," once under the principalship of Dr. Hunter, whose graduates have formed the Thomas Hunter Association.

At 36 West 13th street and 43-45 West 12th street see in the oblique walls of the buildings, traces of the old **Union Road**, which originally connected Skinner Road (the continuation of Christopher street) at 33 West 11th street (see old **rear house**), with the Southampton Road at

15th street and Seventh avenue (see p. 9). Note the lines of these roads and of Manetta Brook on Map No. 1 (see Excursion II).

6. **N. Y. Society Library** at 107 University Place (12th St.), the oldest public library in America, established in 1700 in the English City Hall by Gov. Bellomont, incorporated 1754 as the City Library and chartered by George III, 1772, as the N. Y. Society Library. The present building was erected in 1856. See **sun-dial, Roman jar and marble seat** in Grace churchyard, 10th Street and Broadway.

(East of Union Square.)

7. **Academy of Music** was erected at 14th Street and Irving Place in 1854, rebuilt in 1868, and was the home of American Opera until the erection of the Metropolitan Opera House in 1883.

8. **Washington Irving's last city home**, S.W. corner of Irving Place and 17th Street. Horace Greeley lived at 35 E. 19th Street, and the Cary sisters at 53 E. 20th Street.

9. **Gramercy Park**, old Crom-messje or Crummassie Vly (Crooked Knife Valley), so called from the shape of the old farm in the valley of Cedar Creek, which formed a pond at Madison Square and emptied into the East River at 18th Street. In 1780 "Gramercy Seat" was the 20-acre farm of James Duane, and later became the property of Samuel B. Ruggles, who in 1831 gave the park land to the owners of the 66 adjoining lots on the condition that each contribute \$10.00 per year for the maintenance of the park which was laid out in 1840. See the **tablet** set in the sidewalk near the west gate. Samuel J. Tilden lived at 14-15 E. 20th Street in a house famous for its sculptured front. Theodore Roosevelt was born at 28 E. 20th Street.

SECTION II: MADISON SQUARE AND VICINITY.

10. **Madison Square** (6 acres) was formed by the junction of the Old Post Road and the Bloomingdale Road. The Old Post Road followed the line of Park Row and Bowery to Cooper Union, then up 4th Avenue (see Excursion III) to Madison Square, at the S.W. corner of which the Bloomingdale Road branched off, following the line of Broadway to Kingsbridge. The Old Post Road crossed the site of Madison Square diagonally (see C. H. C. Plan of New York in the English Period) between the present double **row of trees** (seen from the fountain, looking north) to Madison Avenue. Crossing 3rd Avenue between 42d and 43d Streets it ran to 2d Avenue, crossing it at 52d Street (at Cato's Road House) and again at 63d Street. It crossed 3d Avenue at 65th and 77th Streets and 4th Avenue at 85th Street, and thence ran through Central

Park to Harlem, its west branch joining the Bloomingdale Road. A monthly post to Boston was established in 1673 by Gov. Lovelace.

The Potters' Field was in Madison Square, between 1794-7. The square was originally planned as a "Parade," to extend from 23rd to 34th Streets and from 3rd to 7th Avenues, but was laid out in its present dimensions in 1845. See bronze **statues** of Roscoe Conklin, by J. Q. A. Ward, 1893; Wm. H. Seward, by Rogers, 1876; Chester A. Arthur, by Bissell, 1899; and Admiral Farragut, by St. Gaudens, erected by the Farragut Memorial Association. The small drinking fountain was given by Miss Catharine Wolfe and the large one by Mrs. O. E. P. Stokes.

11. **Worth Monument**, by St. Gaudens, erected 1857 at the junction of 5th Ave., Broadway and 25th Street, by the corporation of the city, to honor Maj. Gen. Worth, who distinguished himself in the Mexican War. His body rests beneath the monument. On the site stood the U. S. Arsenal (1797-1825), used later as the first House of Refuge.

12. **Fifth Avenue Hotel**, erected 1856-8 by Amos R. Eno on the site of Corporal Thompson's Inn, "Madison Cottage" (1833-53). Eno bought the triangular block opposite (site of Flatiron Building) for \$25,000 in 1862; it is now valued at \$1,000,000.

13. **Madison Square Garden** (opened 1890), on the site of the old Harlem R. R. Station, later a hippodrome. See within, near the Tower elevator, the **3rd milestone** which marked the distance on the Old Post Road.

(Points east of Madison Square.)

14. **College of the City of New York**, established in 1848-9, at Lexington Ave. and 23rd Street as the Free Academy and chartered as a college in 1866. See within the **tablet** to honor the graduates who died in the Civil War. The College will soon move to its new site at W. 138th Street.

15. **Bull's Head Tavern**, n. w. corner 3rd Ave. and 24th Street, third of the name (see Excursions I. and III.), built about 1826 by Thos. Swift and owned for years by "Uncle Dan'l" Drew, of steamboat fame. It was the headquarters of the drovers and butchers of New York until 1848, when the cattle market was moved to 42nd Street. The region between 23rd and 27th Streets and 2nd and 4th Aves. was known as Bull's Head Village, and was part of the old Rose Hill Farm.

See **gate** and **wall** of the old House of Refuge at the entrance to a coal yard on the north side of 23rd Street, between 1st Avenue and Avenue A, to which site the institution was moved from Madison Square in 1839.

The Belle Vue Farm was at 26th Street, along the East River. The city hospital was moved here in 1810 from the neighborhood of City Hall Park,

together with the penitentiary and almshouse, the last two being later removed to Blackwell's Island. The first ambulance service in the world was inaugurated in 1869 by this hospital.

16. **Peter Cooper's House** was moved in 1820 from the site of the Bible House to 28th Street and 4th Avenue, where it still stands. From this corner the Middle Road branched out to the north. The **Fourth Avenue Tunnel** was built under Murray Hill in 1837 to accommodate the first horsecar line in the world, running from Harlem to Chambers Street.

(Points north of Madison Square.)

17. **Church of the Transfiguration**, called "The Little Church around the Corner," at 5 East 29th Street, was opened in 1856. From this church have been buried Wallack, Booth and Boucicault. See the famous "**Lich Gate**" and **memorial window** to Edwin Booth.

18. **Marble Collegiate Reformed Church**, 29th Street and 5th Avenue, dedicated 1854. See **tablet** commemorating its succession to the old Church in the Fort and the **bell** in the yard, which originally hung in the old North Church. See also bell mentioned on p. 10.

(Points west of Madison Square.)

19. **Schermerhorn Mansion**, 49 West 23rd Street, the last old private residence on the block. When erected, the population of New York was 700,000, stages still ran on Broadway, horsecars were in common use, the Harlem R. R. ran trains to White and Centre Streets and the Hudson River R. R. ran passenger trains to Varick Street.

20. **Masonic Temple**, erected 1867, holds the **Bible** on which Washington took the oath of office in 1789; it is in the custody of St. John's Lodge No. 1.

Tablet at 5 West 22nd Street, to mark the site of the home of Prof. S. F. B. Morse.

The Buckhorn Tavern stood at 22nd Street and Broadway.

SECTION III: LOVE LANE AND CHELSEA VILLAGE.

A. Love Lane and Traces of the Old Roads.

The Abingdon Road (named for the Earl of Abingdon, Sir Peter Warren's son-in-law), or "*Love Lane*" (so called because a favorite drive), originally followed the line of West 21st Street from the Bloomingdale Road to a point east of 8th Avenue, where it turned n. w. to Chelsea. It was met just east of 6th Avenue by the Southampton Road, east of 7th Avenue by the Warren Road; east of 8th Avenue it crossed the Fitzroy Road (which ran from 15th to 42d streets) and east of 9th Avenue, prob-

ably ran a fourth road—all of which roads connected with the great Kills Road, which followed the line of Gansevoort Street, extended to 16th Street east of 7th Avenue (see lines of roads on Map No. 1).

All of the above country roads may yet be traced by existing alley-ways, rear buildings and oblique walls paralleling their original lines.

Traces of Love Lane may be seen on W. 21st Street at Nos. 25-27, the n. e. corner of 6th Avenue, Nos. 250-252, and the s. w. corner of 8th Avenue. See also

22. **Beth Haim**, near the n. w. corner of 6th Avenue,—the third oldest Jewish graveyard (1830), following the cemeteries at Chatham Square (Excursion III) and 11th Street (Excursion II).

Traces of the Southampton Road are found at 112-116 W. 17th Street and 115-119 W. 16th Street. (Paisley Place, see p. 5).

Traces of the Warren Road are at 148 W. 19th Street, 155-157 W. 18th Street and 154 W. 17th Street.

Traces of the Fitzroy Road remain at 254 W. 20th Street, 254 W. 18th Street and at 246-250-252 W. 17th Street.

Traces of a fourth road appear at 341 W. 21st Street, 346 and 368-370 W. 18th Street, 352-354 W. 17th Street, 352-354 and 357 W. 16th Street, 366 W. 15th Street and 112 9th Avenue (See 28, p. 10).

Traces of the Great Kills (Kiln) Road are found in the oblique wall at the n. w. corner of 15th Street and 7th Avenue and the wall of St. Joseph's Home.

Quaint houses, some with oriel windows and newel posts, many of them reached through alley-ways, survive on 20th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues, at 200 W. 19th Street, on 18th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues and 16th and 17th Streets, between 6th and 8th Avenues; also along 7th, 8th and 9th Avenues, between 15th and 23d Streets.

George Bancroft lived and wrote (1850-67) at 17 W. 21st Street.

B. Chelsea.

23. **Chelsea** is the name applied to that part of the city between 8th Avenue, the Hudson, 19th and 24th Streets. It was named for the homestead of Captain Clarke, a veteran of the French and Indian Wars, whose house was built in 1750 about 200 west of the present 9th Avenue between 22d and 23d Streets, the grounds running down to the river, which then came nearly to 10th Avenue. It was named for the soldiers' home near London, and was rebuilt by "Mistress Molly Clarke," who lived here until 1802. Her daughter married Bishop Moore, whose son Clement C. Moore

lived here until 1850. While here, in 1822, he wrote the familiar poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas,"

"'Twas the night before Christmas," etc.

Through his agency streets were opened through this property in 1813. The old house was torn down in 1852-3, when the bluffs on the river shore were leveled and the shore line extended west.

24. **London Terrace**, the familiar row of tall pilastered houses with deep front yards on 23d Street, erected 1845 by Wm. Torrey when this was a fashionable residence quarter. At 436 W. 22d Street is the old mansion once the home of Edwin Forrest and little altered since his time.

25. **Chelsea Cottages**, a row of small houses with little front yards on W. 24th Street, built about 1845.

26. **Chelsea Square**, the block between 20th and 21st Streets and 9th and 10th Avenues on which are the buildings of the General Theological Seminary. The land was given by C. C. Moore, and the West Building (still standing) was erected 1835. The square with its green lawns, quadrangles and ivy-covered buildings, the library, chapel and refectory, are well worth a visit.

27. **St. Peter's Church**, on 20th Street, east of 9th Avenue, was built 1836-8 on land given by C. C. Moore. See within **tablets** to Moore and Dr. Hugh Smith. The rectory, just west, was the original St. Peter's Chapel.

28. **112 9th Avenue**, an old house with outside stairs reached through a rear alley which originally faced a road used as a short cut from Greenwich Village to Chelsea.

29. Site of the **Wolfe Monument** at the head of old Monument Lane (now Greenwich Avenue), erected in honor of the hero of Quebec.

C. Outlying Points.

Tablet on an isle-of-safety at 22d Street and 12th Avenue to mark the "Chelsea Improvement," a great system of new docks not yet completed and meant to accommodate the largest merchant vessels afloat.

The whole shore line is being improved, entire blocks of buildings having been demolished to make way for modern warehouses and the new streets which are being constructed along the river front.

The Arsenal at 7th Ave. and 35th Street contains relics of the French and Indian War, the Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. See also **tablets** removed from the old Elm Street Armory.

SECTION IV: MURRAY HILL TO CENTRAL PARK.

Murray Hill is the height between 34th and 42d Sts. and was named for Robert Murray, a loyalist during the Revolution, whose wife, Mary Lindley, by a clever stratagem delayed Howe (Sept. 15, 1776) in his pursuit of Washington. The Murray estate was called Incleberg, and extended between 33d and 37th Sts., from the Boston to the Bloomingdale Road. The site of the house is marked by a **tablet**, erected by the Knickerbocker Chapter of the D. A. R., on a boulder in the park space at 37th Street and 4th Avenue, where the house stood until 1834.

The cornfield, where Washington tried to rally the American troops, was on the Murray farm, somewhere between the Grand Central Station and Bryant Park,

Bryant Park (so called in 1884, but originally known as Reservoir Square) was bought by the city in 1822 and used as a Potters' Field until, in 1842, it became the site of the first distributing reservoir of the Croton Aqueduct, now torn down to make way for the New York Public Library. In the western part of the park stood the Crystal Palace, where, in 1853, was held the first World's Fair in America.

Tablet on the east side of Madison Ave., between 49th and 50th Streets, marks the site of Columbia College, which was moved here from College Place in 1857. The Elgin Botanical Garden, founded in 1801 by Dr. Hosack, Professor of Botany in Columbia, occupied the blocks between 47th and 51st Streets and west nearly to 6th Ave., on land given Columbia by the State, to make good the claims of the college to a New Hampshire township. Two English yews once occupying the garden were transplanted to the new site at Morningside Heights. (Tablet lately removed.)

Tablet on the Collegiate Church at 48th St. and 5th Ave., to commemorate its connection with the "Church in the Fort." Within may be seen a **tablet** erected by the D. A. R. to honor the soldiers and sailors of the Revolution. In the tower is the **bell** which originally hung in the Middle Church in Nassau Street. See also No. 18, p. 8.

Columbus Column at the Circle, 8th Ave. and 59th Street, presented to the city by Italian citizens at the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Central Park, planned in 1851 and laid out by "the Commissioners of Central Park" in 1859, Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux executing the plans. The park contains many statues of famous men, and **Cleopatra's Needle**, presented in 1877 by the Khedive of Egypt.

In the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** may be seen a fine series of historical prints of great Americans, and in the **Museum of Natural History** there is a large collection of Indian relics excavated in Inwood, the Bronx and Staten Island.

For complete descriptions of the park see Alden's "Manhattan Historic and Artistic," Appleton's "Dictionary of N. Y.," and other guide books, besides catalogues obtained at the museums.

SECTION V : ALONG THE BLOOMINGDALE ROAD.

The **Bloomingdale Road** was laid out about 1700 and ran along the lines of Broadway and the Boulevard, through Bloomingdale Village (named for Bloemendael "the dale of flowers" near Haarlem in Holland) to Manhattanville. **Bloomingdale** extended from 21st to 100th Streets and was a favorite suburban section; but few of the old mansions survive.

The American army retreated on September 15, 1776, along this road to Harlem Heights. See **tablet** at 1497 Broadway, between 43d and 44th Streets, erected by the Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate the meeting of Washington and Putnam on this eventful day.

Van Der Heuvel House at West End Avenue and 79th Street was built about 1792 by the Governor of Demerara, and during the Revolution was used as a tavern, known as Burnham's Mansion House. The two lower stories of stone are part of the original building, the upper story having been burnt in 1792.

The **Statue of Washington** at 89th Street and Riverside Drive was presented to the city by the children of the public schools. Just north is **The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument** erected by the city to honor the heroes of the Civil War.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue stands on the site of the old wooden church erected in 1805 and rebuilt in 1854.

The **Furniss House**, formerly "Ann Rogers," at 99th Street and Riverside Drive, is a fine old colonial mansion. See, also, the **DePeyster House** at 114th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and the **Corrigan House** at Riverside Drive and 114th Street.

Statues of Washington and Lafayette in Lafayette Square, at the junction of Morningside and Manhattan Avenues, near 114th Street, the gift of C. B. Rouss.

SECTION VI: THE UPPER EAST SIDE.

(The numbers refer to Map No. 11, p. 16.)

30. Site of **Artillery Park**, 45th Street and 1st Avenue; scene of the execution of Nathan Hale (see Johnston's "Nathan Hale").

Turtle Bay is a rocky cove on the shore of which stood an old storehouse where the British kept military supplies. These were captured in 1773 by a band of Liberty Boys under John Lamb and Marinus Willett. Fortifications occupied this spot during the two wars with England. The British landed at Kip's Bay, foot of E. 34th Street, when they captured the Island of Manhattan; the old Kip House, built over 250 years ago, remained here until about 50 years ago.

31. The **Beekman House** stood on Beekman Hill, between 51st and 52d Streets, west of 1st Avenue, where P. S. 135 now stands. It was built in 1763 by Wm. Beekman and became the headquarters of Howe, Clinton and Carleton. In a greenhouse on the grounds Hale was tried as a spy and here Andre received his final instructions before going north to meet Arnold. The house was torn down in 1874, but one of its **mantels** and some of the **Dutch Scripture tiles** may be seen in the rooms of the N. Y. Historical Society. Odellville was the name applied to a hamlet of sixty years ago lying in the region of 3d Avenue and 49th Street. From it a long lane led to the country house of Horace Greeley on the East River shore.

32. The **De Voor Farmhouse**, built about 200 years ago, stands at the foot of E. 53d Street. The Spring Valley Farm was granted in 1677 by Gov. Andros to David Duffore or De Voor. It was later called the Odell, Arden, and Brevoort estate. It is a good example of substantial Dutch architecture and one of the oldest buildings in the city. Near it stands a **shot tower**, built by Mr. Youle in 1821 (succeeding the old tower of Revolutionary days), and was used during the Civil War.

33. The **Brevoort House**, another house of Dutch style, but much later than the De Voor House (after 1800), stands near the foot of E. 54th Street. "Cannon Point" was the name given to the projection into the East River of E. 55th Street. From this point may be obtained a good view of the dangerous rocks and eddies of the East River and of the south end of **Blackwell's Island**, called in Indian days Minnahanonck or Long Island and later Manning's Island. The island was granted to Captain John Manning, who was Sheriff of New York City in 1664. Because of his disgraceful surrender of the city to the Dutch in 1673 his sword was broken and he spent some years in retirement in his "castle" on the island. He left it to his step-daughter, who married Robert Blackwell, and

in 1828 the city bought it for \$50,000. Passes to visit the island may be obtained from the Department of Charities and Correction.

34. **4th Milestone** at 57th Street and 3d Avenue.

35. **Smith's Folly**, a quaint old mansion near the terminal of the new Blackwell's Island Bridge, 421 E. 61st Street. It was built as a stable in 1799 (see date on rear wall) by Col. Wm. S. Smith, son-in-law of President John Adams. After Smith's failure it was used as a tavern until 1830, when it was bought by Jeremiah Towle, City Surveyor, and is still occupied by his daughters. Across the street are two old residences, one occupied by the Female Guardian Society Industrial School.

36. The **Schermerhorn Farmhouse** (built about 1747), at the foot of E. 64th Street, was the summer home of Gov. George Clinton and a favorite resort of Washington. This house and

37. The **Jones' Chapel** and graveyard, just north, are about to give way to the new buildings of the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research. The Chapel was used as a house of worship a hundred years ago, and in the graveyard are buried the Hardenbrooks, Adamses and other families of the neighborhood. The river shore here is as bold and rocky as it was in the early days. Here the Pastime Club ("Indians") had their athletic grounds until recently.

38. **Jones' Wood**, north of 70th Street, was part of the 90-acre farm (from 66th to 75th Streets) originally owned by the Provoost family. Samuel Provoost became the first Bishop of New York and was a president of Columbia College. His cousin, David Provoost, was a Revolutionary soldier who became a pirate ("Ready Money Provoost") and hid his ill-gotten gains in the "Smugglers' Cave" on the shore of this farm or in a cave at Hallets' Point, Astoria. The old Jones family vault disappeared in 1858 from the foot of E. 71st Street. The Jones family acquired this property about 1803, and later Jones' Wood became a popular picnic resort. It was originally chosen as the site for Central Park.

39. The **5th Milestone** is at 77th Street and 3rd Avenue, where a Kissing Bridge crossed the Saw-Kill.

Yorkville was a village on the old Post Road between 83rd and 89th Streets, 4th and 2nd Avenues, by some so considered from 59th to 100th Street, the old Hell Gate Ferry being then at the foot of 86th Street. 74th Street was the south boundary of the old "Town of Harlem."

40. The **Gracie House** in East River Park stands on what was known in early days as

41. **Horn's Hook** (its first owner, Siebert Classen, coming from Hoorn, Holland), and later as Rhinelander's or Observation Point, where batteries

were placed during the two wars with England. The house was built by Archibald Gracie about 1813, and Washington Irving was a frequent visitor here and at the Astor House, which stood just south.

Some of the trees in the park were sent from Japan and China.

42. The **Prime House** at 89th Street and Avenue A is now one of the buildings of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum; some of its old fireplaces and mantels are preserved, and from its upper balcony may be obtained a fine view of Hell Gate (see 44).

43. The **Latimer House**, built about 1780, at 91st Street and 1st Avenue, is now in the grounds of the Old Homestead Garden and is used by the Musical Benefit Union.

See the **7th Milestone** at 117th Street and 3rd Avenue.

44. **Hell Gate** ("clear" or "bright pass") is at the junction of the Harlem and East Rivers, and, owing to hidden rocks and conflicting tides, is even yet dangerous for small craft, although many rocks have been removed by the government. The great work of exploding these reefs was begun in 1869-76, and completed in 1885. Among its features are Pot Rock, the Devil's Frying Pan, Flood Rock, Hog's Back, Nigger Head and Gridiron. A description of the strait is given in the Labadist Journal. **Mill Rock**, or Leland Island, opposite 93d Street, used to be known as "Sandy Gibson's," a favorite stopping place for fishermen. Here in 1812 a block-house was built for the defense of the city.

Ward's Island (also called Great Barent, Barn or Buchanan's Island) lies north of Hell Gate. It was bought by VanTwiller from the Indians and used by him as a pasture. In 1776 it was occupied by the British, who here established a camp. After the Revolution it was divided into farms, and in 1812 a cotton mill was built and a bridge connected the island with 114th Street. In 1840 it became the Potter's Field, 100,000 bodies being brought here from Bryant Park (see Section IV).

Randall's Island (Belle Isle, Little Barent or Montessor's Island) is separated from Ward's Island by Little Hell Gate. Here in 1776 250 Americans were defeated in an attempt to capture a British force. Jonathan Randel bought the island in 1784 for £24 and sold it to the city in 1835 for \$50,000. The institutions on these two islands may be visited on a pass from the Department of Charities.



MAP No. II: THE UPPER EAST SIDE.

To Illustrate Excursion No. V, Section VI.

(Adapted from 1,000 foot scale map of Manhattan, by courtesy of August R. Ohman, Map Publisher and Engineer, 97 Warren St., N. Y. City.)

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